

Message Text

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L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 EB-08 /122 W
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 01593

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM

SUBJECT: 34TH SESSION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION;
WEO MEETING

REF: A) STATE 022442, B) GENEVA 01049

1. AMBASSADOR VANDEN HEUVEL CHAIRED WEO MEETING FEBRUARY
1 PREPARATORY TO FULL WEO DELEGATION MEETING SCHEDULED FOR
FEB. 6. THOSE ITEMS DISCUSSED WILL BE EXAMINED FURTHER
BY EACH DELEGATION PRIVATELY AND HOPEFULLY ALL WILL
APPEAR AT MONDAY'S MEETING READY TO BEGIN INDEPTH
DISCUSSIONS ON A MAJORITY OF THE ISSUES.

2. THE EC NINE COULD MAKE ONLY GENERAL COMMENTS DURING
MEETING BECAUSE THEY HAD NOT MET TO COME UP WITH AGREED
POSITIONS. (DEPARTMENT IS AWARE THAT EC NINE REPS ARE
MEETING IN COPENHAGEN FEBRUARY 1 AND 2.) ON THE OTHER
HAND, THE ENTIRE AUSTRALIAN DEL WAS PRESENT AND THEIR
POSITIONS ON A NUMBER OF THE ITEMS WERE CLEARLY STATED.

3. ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES - A MAJOR POINT OF THIS
DISCUSSION WAS WHETHER THE WEST AND LIKE-MINDED SHOULD
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PUSH TO REFER THE HIGH COMMISSIONER PROPOSAL BACK TO THE
GA (CANADA, ITALY) OR WORK TO KEEP INITIATIVE ALIVE BUT
LET IT REMAIN IN COMMISSION WHILE GATHERING MORE SUPPORT
(AUSTRALIA). IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE HCHR, THE GROUP
DISCUSSED THE PROPOSED ANALYSIS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS
MACHINERY AS SET FORTH IN RES 32/130. AFTER SOME
DISCUSSION, A WORKING GROUP TO BE CHAIRED BY CANADA

WAS APPOINTED TO ANALYZE THE POLITICAL WILL OF THE COMMISSION TO DETERMINE IF IT IS POSSIBLE TO REFER THE HCHR PROPOSAL BACK TO THE GA FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE 33RD SESSION. THE WORKING GROUP WHICH INCLUDES ITALY, AUSTRALIA, THE NETHERLANDS, SWEDEN AND THE UNITED STATES WILL ALSO EXPLORE METHODS FOR CONDUCTING THE ANALYSIS CALLED FOR IN RES 32/130.

4. REGIONAL COMMISSIONS - AUSTRALIA (DAVIS) STRESSED THE NEED FOR CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION BY WEO'S ON THIS ITEM. HE NOTED THAT IN THE FAR EAST REGION THERE IS NOT MUCH LIKE-MINDEDNESS (E.G., CAMBODIA) AND SUGGESTED THAT WAYS AND MEANS OF ESTABLISHING SUCH MACHINERY BE EXPLORED.

5. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS VS. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS - IT WAS NOTED THAT THIS ISSUE CAN BE INTRODUCED UNDER A NUMBER OF AGENDA ITEMS AND CONSUME AN INORDINATE AMOUNT OF TIME. IT IS RUMORED THAT IRAN (THE GREATEST HRC EXPONENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS) HAS BEEN CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF COMPLETING DEBATE OF THE ISSUE UNDER ONE ITEM. LAMB (AUSTRALIA) SUGGESTED THAT THE WEST MIGHT WANT TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE NONALIGNED AND ENCOURAGE A ONE-TIME DISCUSSION OF ISSUE.

6. PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL PROCEDURES CONCERNING HR VIOLATIONS - SIX COUNTRIES (BELGIUM, FRANCE, ARGENTINA, SENEGAL, THE NETHERLANDS AND THE FRG) HAVE RESPONDED TO CONFIDENTIAL

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THE SYG NOTE ON THIS SUBJECT. IT IS POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF THE LIMITED RESPONSES THAT ITEM WILL NOT BE DEBATED. IF ISSUE IS DISCUSSED CANADA AND ITALY PLAN TO MAKE STATEMENT ORALLY.

7. UGANDA - U.S. POSITION ON UGANDA WAS STATED AS GIVEN IN REF A. CANADA SUPPORTED U.S. POSITION AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT NORDICS, SOME AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND THE U.K. COULD WORK TOGETHER ON AN INITIATIVE IF NO ACTION IS TAKEN UNDER 1503. CHANDLER (CANADA) SAID HIS DELEGATION WILL NOT INSIST ON TAKING THE LEAD ON THIS ISSUE NOR WILL IT BE THE SOLE INITIATOR ON THE ITEM AS IT WAS LAST YEAR. THE COMMISSION'S WORKING GROUP ON COMMUNICATIONS IS NOW FINALIZING ITS WORK AND HOPEFULLY THEIR DECISION WILL LEAD TO SOME ACTION BY THE HRC UNDER 1503. HE NOTED THAT A MAJOR PROBLEM WOULD BE FINDING A LEGAL WAY TO RAISE ISSUE OF UGANDA PUBLICLY IF THE 1503 ROUTE FAILED. LAMB SUGGESTED A MODERATE RES UNDER 1503 SUCH AS SENDING AN EMISSARY TO UGANDA. HE EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT SUCH A PROPOSAL MIGHT SUCCEED IN BEING ADOPTED WHEREAS A MORE STRINGENT PROPOSAL WOULD STAND LITTLE CHANCE OF SUPPORT BY THE NONALIGNED. CHANDLER NOTED THAT EQUATORIAL

GUINEA HAD REFUSED ENTRY OF THE EMISSARY WHICH THE COMMISSION PROPOSED BE SENT TO INSPECT ALLEGATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. HOWEVER HE WAS NOT OPPOSED TO TRYING THE SAME PROPOSAL AGAIN, THIS TIME WITH UGANDA. U.K. DISTRIBUTED STATEMENT STATING IT WOULD AGAIN PRESS FOR ACTION ON UGANDA (SEPTEL).

8. CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE - DAVIS (AUSTRALIA) ASKED THAT A DISCUSSION OR SERIES OF DISCUSSIONS ON WHETHER TORTURE IS OR IS NOT AN INTERNATIONAL CRIME BE DISCUSSED VERY SOON AFTER WEO MEETING SCHEDULE IS ANNOUNCED. OCCHIPINTI (ITALY) RECOMMENDED THAT DRAFTING OF CONVENTION

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NOT BE ASSIGNED TO THE SUB-COMMISSION BECAUSE IT WOULD BE DELAYED FOR YEARS.

9. CAMBODIA - U.K. DISTRIBUTED DOCUMENTS ON THIS ITEM (SEPTEL) AND MADE SAME REMARKS AS THEY MADE IN REF B.

10. ISRAEL - AMBASSADOR VANDEN HEUVEL SAID HE HAS LEARNED THAT THIS YEAR'S RES ON ISRAEL WILL EQUAL OR SURPASS THE 1977 DRAFT IN ITS CRITICISM OF ISRAEL. WEO'S WERE DUBIOUS ABOUT GETTING SYRIAN REP TO LIMIT HIS INTERVENTION AND PESSIMISTICALLY PREDICTED A WEEK LONG DEBATE. WEO'S DID AGREE TO MAKE SHORT SPEECHES WHICH WOULD REQUIRE NO RIGHT OF REPLY.

11. RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE - AMBASSADOR BEAULNE (CANADA) HAS REQUESTED MORE SUPPORT FROM WEO'S IN THE

WORKING GROUP. HE PARTICULARLY STRESSED PARTICIPATION OF OBSERVER STATES WHO CAN PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THE DISCUSSIONS.

12. SOUTH AFRICAN DETAINNESS - THERE WAS LITTLE DISCUSSION ON THIS ISSUE. CHANDLER DID EXPRESS HOPE THAT DRAFT RESOLUTION WOULD BE AVAILABLE DURING FIRST DAYS OF CONFIDENTIAL

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THE SESSION SO THAT NEGOTIATIONS CAN BEGIN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

13. WEO MEETINGS - A SCHEDULE OF WEO AND LIKE-MINDED MEETINGS FOR THE DURATION OF THE HRC SESSION WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT THE WEO GATHERING FEB 6. AT THAT TIME A DISCUSSION OF THE ORDER OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSED.

14. THE FOLLOWING HRC MEMBERS AND OBSERVERS ATTENDED MEETING:

AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, CANADA, DENMARK, FRANCE FRG, FINLAND, GREECE, ITALY, NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, PORTUGAL, SWEDEN, TURKEY, UK.SORENSEN

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